

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me a substantial number of local TV channels via satellite in my market area.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet through DirectWay, but the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite.

I also believe that by eliminating the broadcasting of repetitive channels across both networks the industry would be poised to better meet the growing desire and need for increased viewing choices by freeing up broadcasting space on the networks.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

James C. Stephens

Sincerely,

James Stephens
5109 Scenic Heights
Manchester, GA 31816